



7 May 2005



## Memorial Day Teamwork

1. The Memorial Day holiday period (27 through 30 May) is a time to honor our fallen comrades and recognize the sacrifices of those defending our great Nation today, including members of the USAREUR team. Our Soldiers are performing magnificently in combat, and many of them have given their lives while serving our country. Many more are in hospitals here and in CONUS recovering from combat-related injuries. Our gratitude and our prayers are with them and their families.

2. As Memorial Day approaches, I ask you to consider the consequences of your actions, take steps to mitigate risks, and watch out for your colleagues, your family members, and your friends. This is not the time to let down your guard: On the contrary, Memorial Day marks the traditional beginning of summer, which is historically our most dangerous time of year. Now more than ever, we must work together as a team to ensure one another's safety.

3. As the weather gets warmer and our participation in outdoor activities increases, I ask you to do the following:

- Consider the composite risks involved in your plans. Assess your plans objectively, as if they were those of a friend or colleague. If a plan involves significant risks, change it. In addition, first-line leaders must meet with their Soldiers *Under the Oak Tree* to discuss their holiday plans and make verbal contracts with them regarding their safety. I am convinced that lives are being saved by the risk-identification and assessment process we started a year ago. Please keep up this focus.

- Take time to review your unit summer safety campaign. The information in the campaign is based on real-life experiences. Learn from those experiences and take positive actions to avoid the mistakes others have made. If you need more information, visit the USAREUR Safety Web site at [http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/safetydivision/usareur\\_summer\\_safety\\_campaign.htm](http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/safetydivision/usareur_summer_safety_campaign.htm).

4. We have a fantastic USAREUR team with a great reputation. As we take part in various Memorial Day events throughout our military communities to remember those who have given "the last full measure," let us also remember to take care of one another. Last year we lost no Soldiers during the Memorial Day weekend. As we strive to repeat that success, our goal remains *No Loss of Life*. Keep this goal in sight as we continue to accomplish with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere. Have a great summer!

B. B. BELL  
General, US Army  
Commanding

**ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE!**

B  
E  
L  
L  
  
S  
E  
N  
D  
S

#

23-05